

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 BIB-01 SAM-01 AID-05 IO-10

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O R 061140Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2576

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

UNCLAS SAIGON 1466

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPT PASS IMMEDIATE TO IBS/NCA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: GVN STATEMENT ON RECENT PRESS CRACKDOWN

1. THE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GVN STATEMENT ON LIFTING OF PUBLISHING LICENSES OF FIVE NEWSPAPERS AND ARREST OF NEWSMEN CHARGED WITH BEING COMMUNIST AGENTS. THE STATEMENT WAS RELEASED THIS MORNING AT THE GVN INTERMINISTERIAL NEWS CONFERENCE OF THE MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR, INFORMATION AND CHIEU HOI AND THE NATIONAL POLICE.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

ABOUT THE ARREST OF A NUMBER OF COMMUNIST AGENTS INFILTRATING THE PRESS AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF LICENSES OF 5 INVOLVED NEWSPAPERS  
ON FEBRUARY 3, 1975, OUR PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES ARRESTED

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17 UNDERGROUND COMMUNISTS WHO HAD BEEN CONDUCTING SABOTAGE

IN A NUMBER OF NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL STAFFS IN SAIGON. BASED ON THE ABOVE MENTIONED FACTS AND ON ARTICLE 6, DECREE 049/69 THAT APPLIES TO THE PRESS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE LICENCES OF THE 5 INVOLVED NEWSPAPERS WHICH ARE DIEN TIN, DONG PHUONG, SONG THAN, BUT THEP AND TIA SANG.

ALTHOUGH THE ABOVE STATED COMMUNIST ELEMENTS HAD OPERATED WITHIN THE PRESS MEDIA, WE CANNOT ASSIMILATE THEM WITH THE MASS OF THE NATIONAL BONA FIDE JOURNALISTS. IN PARTICULAR, THEY CANNOT BE CONSIDERED TO BELONG AMONG THE LEGAL OPPOSITION, FOR ALL FORMS OF PROPAGANDA AVANTAGEOUS TO THE COMMUNISTS MUST BE UNDERSTOOD AS VIOLATING THE CONSTITUTION AND BEYOND THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL LAW. THE GOVERNMENT AFFIRMS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO REPRESSION OF THE OPPOSITION OR OF THE PRESS WHEN THE DECISION ON THE ARREST OF THE ABOVE COMMUNIST ELEMENTS TOOK PLACE.

IN THEIR CAMPAIGN OF FABRICATING, SLANDERING AND MAKING UP FALSE STORIES, THE ABOVE COMMUNIST ELEMENTS HAVE OBVIOUSLY AIMED AT DEMORALIZING OUR ARMED FORCES, CAUSING CONFUSION AND WORRY AMONG THE PUBLIC, AND SAPPING ITS TRUST IN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES. USING THE LABELS OF FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL OPPOSITION, THEY HAVE DIRECTLY SUPPORTED THE INVADING COMMUNIST IN THE BATTLEFIELD BY IMPLEMENTING TACTICS MEANT TO CAUSE THE INTERNAL SEPARATION, DISUNITY AND DIVISION AMONG THE NATIONAL RANKS. TO CRACK DOWN ON THESE SYSTEMATIC AND LARGE SCALE SCHEMES OF SUBVERSION, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO TAKE URGENT AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PREVENT IN TIME THE ENEMY'S PLOTS, IRRESPECTIVE AND WHERE THEY COME FROM, OR IN WHICH DOMAIN THEY MAY BE.

THE ACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS MEANT TO CONSOLIDATE A REALLY FREE PRESS THAT DOES NOT HAVE STRINGS PULLED OR IS INFLUENCED BY THE ENEMY, WHICH INSTEAD IS BASED ON TRUE INFORMATION AND SERIOUS COMMENTARY. WITH THE ELIMINATION OF ELEMENTS ACTING UNDER COMMUNIST INSTRUCTIONS, THE GENUINE JOURNALISTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM THEIR GREAT MISSION, THAT IS TO SERVE THE PUBLIC OPINION AND THE TRUE NATIONAL CAUSE.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO DESTROY THE COMMUNIST SCHEMES DOES NOT WORK AGAINST THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH WHICH IS ONE OF THE BASIC RIGHTS OF EVERY CITIZEN THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST RESERVE AND SOLEMNLY

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PLEDGES TO RESPECT. THE GOVERNMENT ALWAYS ENCOURAGES AND SUPPORTS EVERY CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITY OF THE PRESS.

END TEXT  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GVN STATEMENT ON RECENT PRESS CRACKDOWN  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, VS  
**To:** STATE  
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